

THE ROOTING SWINE.

Snouts to ground from their hour of birth,
See them dig as they go their way;
Morda giving the high gods mirth;
Coda more coarse than the hillside clay,
Fit alone for the grave worm's prey,
Drunk with the fumes of a brutish wine,
These but the will of self obey,
Soulless herds of the rooting swine.

Such is the average of earth,
Out from their muddy sties they stray,
Reek in dullness and wax in girth,
Buy and barter, and cheat and pay,
Ever among the muckheaps stay,
And still on husk and carrion dine,
Nuzzling down to the dirt for aye—
Soulless herds of the rooting swine.

These, indeed, are of little worth,
Font it and flaunt it though they may;
Naught atones for the spirit's death—
Riches, vanity, nor display.
These shall pass in a slow decay,
As rotting mackerel stink and shine,
Forgotten, even on judgment day,
Soulless herds of the rooting swine.

ENVOY.

Prince! 'Twas a minstrel old and gray,
He struck his harp and his eyes met
mine;
He looked at the crowds and I heard him
say:
"Soulless herds of the rooting swine."
—Ernest McGaffey, in the St. Louis Mirror.

The Bachelor Cousin.

M ANDY, he's coming again this year the same as before. About how many years has Cousin Jim been coming here to stay the summer?"

"Twenty, counting the last stop—which was from May until November; really, that makes twenty and a half times your Cousin Jim has visited us. He began early and stayed late the last time, you know. What has Jim Foydyke got to say this time, Silas?"

"Same old thing, Mandy; same old thing. Jim never changes his tune; works on my feelings and tells about how he longs to visit the old nooks and corners of the farm once more. Speaks in a fetching sort of way about the old swimming hole down under the willows; also grips me tighter than a burr about the fishing place below the mill dam, where he once yanked out a four-pound pike with a minnow hook. Jim's got the same old gift of drawing folks to him that he always had. Poor old boy! He has not changed a bit since he went to the city to build up a fortune. He's cut out for a bachelor and will always go it alone to the end. If he was married and was going to bring along a haughty wife and a lot of fresh and saucy children I'd think different about his coming here year after year. The poor, lonesome old boy clings to the place if he has got barrels of money; I can't say as he throws his wealth around when he does come."

"Only pays ordinary price for board, that's all and no more. I will say this about Cousin Jim—he never finds any fault with things; he never complains; warm meals or cold, they're all the same to him. He really seems to enjoy plain fare the best, and always tells me not to fuss with fancy dishes. He crawls up the narrow stairs to the little chamber without a murmur. Some rich old bachelors who live most of the year in high-toned hotels and fashionable boarding houses would find lots of fault. He don't; he's common like and easy to please; just likes to take off his coat and loaf around; hangs on the fence as though he was watching the grass grow; loves to sit on the stoop in the evening like any poor man listening to the tree toads and frogs. Silas, your Cousin Jim has never risen a peg above you if he has got barrels of money. Poor Jim, I saw he was ailing when he was here the last time. Perhaps that was the reason why he came so early and stayed so late."

"I don't like to write and tell him that crops look poor, and that we are a little pinched, and don't really care for company this—"

"Don't you do it, Silas; don't you do it. Why, that would be cruel and wrong; and it would break the poor old bachelor's heart. You are the only one he has got left of the old stock in these parts; the rest are all gone to the city. Silas, Cousin Jim just pines for the sight of your face, and the old place where you and he were boys together. It is like a heaven with him to get back here with you and the dear old familiar things he loves so much. Now you sit right down and tell him we will be tickled to see him again. Tell him the apple trees are budding up against the window of the little chamber; tell him that the grass is greener than ever, that the snowball bush hangs heavy, and that the roses were never so sweet. You might tell him that my last churning was the best I ever turned out since we got the new cows. Mention a word about my raised biscuits and say a little something about the bees and the nice honey. It will come like a breath from the old sweet home when poor Cousin Jim reads all that. He will hardly be able to wait, poor boy!"

It was the same old home-coming, only Cousin Jim hunched over a little more in the buggy, as Silas drove from the station through the sandy

lanes of maples leading to the little farmhouse ensconced among the apple trees at the further end.

During the short drive he said but little, and when Silas asked him a question he hesitated, faltered and rubbed his chin before replying. When Old Gray turned down the lane where the robins were singing and the squirrels chattering, a trace of the old light came back to the old bachelor's eyes and the faded, sunken cheeks glowed a little.

"Si," he murmured, laying his thin hand upon the other's knee, "let me drive Old Gray home through the lane."

The lines hung listlessly from his hands as the old mare slowly walked along the familiar place toward the house, where Mandy stood in the doorway with a glad smile of welcome overspreading her kindly face. Then, when the horse halted at the block, he said, handing over the lines:

"I think I have been driving right into Heaven, Si."

"Why, Cousin Jim, I am so glad to see you again. It seems so like old times to see you and Silas driving home through the lane." And the good woman came forward, with both hands outstretched. Her eyes grew moist when she saw how feeble the old bachelor cousin was. She and Silas had to almost lift him from the buggy, and her strong arms supported the frail form as he walked with dragging steps up the gravel walk and into the cool, flower-scented parlor. His eyes roved about the quiet place and he sighed:

"Heaven, Heaven at last!"

"You lie right down on the couch, Cousin Jim, and take a nap while I get supper. I'll call you in time to wash and freshen up. I'm going to have some raised biscuits and honey—you always liked that."

The tired man laid his head back and murmured:

"Dear Mandy! I am so glad to get back home again. I will rest for a few moments. I am so tired—and so—so happy to get home—home!" Mandy went out and closed the parlor door. "This must be Heaven—at last. It is so still, so sweet, so nice. To-morrow I will go down to the mill dam; I will go to the old swimming hole under the willows once more, where dear old Si and I used to swim. I will sit on the stoop in the cool of the evening, and—I will be at home once more with the good and true and unselfish ones."

And thus he murmured as he drifted into the land of sweet dreams. At rest, finally, there in the cool, flower-scented parlor of the little farmhouse, afar from the noise and bustle of the city.

The bees buzzed among the lilacs, where the humming birds whirled; the apple blossoms bunched against the blinds and the fragrant petals fell upon the sleeper's face—but he did not stir. He was dreaming of the dear old days of boyhood, days filled with joy and delight and sweetness.

Then the good angel of the old man's dreams came in a chariot of silver, and his eyelids were touched with a magic wand. He roved in green pastures, where blue cloud-fleeced skies bent; and he wandered by crystal streams in the cool shady woodlands where birds made glad the fragrant breezes of the summer day of unending bliss.

And then—then it was no longer a dream. Oh, the glory of it all! It was a blessed reality.

"Jim!"

There came no response from the old man on the couch.

"Silas, come quick! All is not well with poor Jim."

They approached the couch and looked down upon the face. The tired look had disappeared. There was a smile instead. Cousin Jim was no longer ill—he was at rest, peacefully at rest. And all was well with him.

The city relatives waited when his will was read. The good and true ones who had loved him to the end, the kindly ones who lived in the little house at the end of the lane—Jim had given all to them.—New York Times.

Timely Hints on Giving.

We should not give people things they do not want.

We should avoid giving anybody the mumps or the chicken-pox if we can help it.

Do not give a friend the cold shoulder without baked beans and hot coffee to go with it.

A man should not give a lady a kiss unless he thinks she would enjoy it, except in the case of his wife and his mother-in-law.

Do not give red suspenders to a total stranger; he might prefer those of a pale blue shade instead.

Do not present a bucking broncho to a tall, pale man of sedentary habits, as he would not likely live long to enjoy it.

When you give castor oil to a howling infant give it for its intrinsic worth and not merely as an evidence of your regard.—Lippincott's.

A Long Weather Cycle.

A long weather cycle of about thirty-five years seems to appear in the British Isles. From records of ninety years Mr. Douglas Archibald concludes that a dry period has just passed, and that the years 1903 to about 1920 will show more than an average rainfall and low barometer, and two bushels per acre deficiency in wheat yield.

\$7,500 Cash Contest

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION'S

Great New Offer Upon Receipts of Cotton at All United States Ports From September 1st, 1903, to May 1st, 1904, Both Inclusive.

Contest Opened Jan. 18th, 1904, Closes April 20th, 1904.

DIVISION OF PRIZES.

For the exact, or the nearest to the exact, estimate of the total number of Bales of Cotton received at all United States ports from September 1st, 1903, to May 1st, 1904, both inclusive..... \$ 2,500.00
For the next nearest estimate..... 1,000.00
For the next nearest estimate..... 500.00
For the 10 next nearest estimates, \$25.00 each..... 125.00
For the 20 next nearest estimates, 12.50 each..... 250.00
For the 50 next nearest estimates, 5.00 each..... 250.00
For the 100 next nearest estimates, 3.00 each..... 300.00

\$ 5,000.00

Additional Offers for Best Estimates Made During Different Periods of the Contest.

For convenience the time of the contest is divided into estimates received by The Constitution during four periods—the first period covering from the beginning of contest to February 10, 1904; second period, from February 10 to March 1, 1904; third period, March 1 to 20; fourth period, March 20 to April 20, 1904. We will give the best estimate received during each period (in addition to whatever other prize it may take, or if it take no prize at all), the sum of \$125.00.

The four prizes thus offered at \$125.00 each amount to..... \$ 500.00

TWO GRAND CONSOLATION OFFERS.

First—For distribution among those estimates (not taking any of the above 188 prizes) coming within 500 bales either way of the exact figures..... \$ 1,000.00

Second—For distribution among those estimates (not taking any of the above 188 prizes and not sharing the first consolation offer) coming within 1,000 bales either way of the exact figures..... 1,000.00

Grand Total..... \$7,500.00

In case of a tie on any prize estimate the money will be equally divided.

Conditions of Sending Estimates in This Port Receipts Contest.

Subject to the usual conditions, as stated regularly in The Constitution each week, the contest is now on. Attention is called to the following summary of conditions:

1. Send \$1.00 for The Weekly Constitution one year and with it ONE ESTIMATE in the contest.
2. Send 50 cents for The Sunny South one year and with it ONE ESTIMATE in the contest.
3. Send \$1.25 for The Weekly Constitution and Sunny South both one year, and send TWO ESTIMATES in the contest—that is, one estimate for The Constitution and another for The Sunny South.
4. Send 50 cents for ONE ESTIMATE alone in the contest IF YOU DO NOT WANT A SUBSCRIPTION. Such a remittance merely pays for the privilege of sending the estimate. If you wish to make a number of estimates on this basis, you may send THREE ESTIMATES FOR EVERY \$1.00 forwarded at the same time estimates are sent. If as many as ten estimates are received at the same time without subscriptions, the sender may forward them with only \$3.00—this splendid discount being offered for only ten estimates in one order. A postal card receipt will be sent for ALL ESTIMATES RECEIVED WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS. Where subscriptions are ordered, THE ARRIVAL OF THE PAPER ITSELF IS AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT YOUR ESTIMATE HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND IS CAREFULLY RECORDED.
5. The money and the subscription and the estimate must come in the same envelope every time. The estimate, the money and the subscription go together. THIS RULE IS POSITIVE.

Secretary Hester's Figures Covering the Period of the Contest.

TOTAL PORT RECEIPTS.		SALES IN COTTON CROP.	
COTTON SEASON.		This is merely for your information and is not the subject of this present contest. It is given only as an additional aid to an intelligent estimate.	
1897-98.....	8,333,862	11,199,994	
1898-99.....	7,993,451	11,274,840	
1899-00.....	6,343,134	10,383,422	
1900-01.....	6,346,312	9,436,416	
1901-02.....	7,218,179	10,680,680	
1902-03.....	7,378,627	10,727,559	

The figures above are certified by Secretary Henry G. Hester, of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, who will furnish the official figures to decide this contest.

Address All Orders to THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, Atlanta, Ga.

WORLD'S FAIR TOPICS.

A world's congress of fraternities will be held at the World's Fair the last week of September, 1904.

Utah's State Building at the World's Fair is finished and has been turned over to the Commissioners.

The marking of twenty miles on aisles in eleven of the main exhibition buildings at St. Louis, Mo., has been completed.

Specimens of onyx, marble, decorating and building stone will be shown in Utah's mining exhibit at the World's Fair.

The dates for the National regatta of 1904, to be held at St. Louis, have been fixed for July 29 and 30. This event will be part of the World's Fair sports.

A practical working laboratory for assaying minerals will be an exhibit of the Colorado School of Mines at the World's Fair and will be operated by students.

A Tell City, Ind., furniture factory is making what it is said will be the largest chair in the world, which will be exhibited in the Varied Industries Palace at the World's Fair.

Colorado will exhibit potatoes at the World's Fair of monstrous proportions. The Commission has 500 tubers that aggregate a ton in weight. The heaviest weighs ten pounds and the lightest one three and one-half pounds.

A 5000 horse-power engine has been installed in Machinery Hall at the World's Fair. The transportation required a train of twenty-one cars. The total weight of the shipment was 720 tons, divided into 202 packages.

The figure of a miner, carved from a block of Coeur d'Alene ore, mounted upon a pedestal of copper and lead ore weighing many tons, will be a feature of Idaho's exhibit in the Palace of Mines and Metallurgy at the World's Fair.

LABOR WORLD.

Barbers at East Liverpool, O., are on strike for shorter hours.

London's threatened cab strike seems to have been abandoned.

During 1903 there were less strikes in Indiana than for many years.

Cabinet makers in Auckland, New Zealand, receive a weekly wage of \$15. St. Joseph (Mo.) labor organizations will unite under one head—the Central Labor Council.

The Musicians' Union, of Toronto, Canada, claims the distinction of having one of the largest memberships in America.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association, after careful inquiry among the members, find that there are places for 4405 women in Canadian factories.

January 1 statistics showed 150 international unions, and their subordinate unions had an aggregate of \$100,000,000 on deposit in banks of the country.

The cigarmakers' report to the American Federation of Labor for 1903 shows 184 strikes, involving a total of 9727 men. Only five were absolutely lost, involving eighty-nine.

Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers' Brotherhood has shown a big growth for the year 1903, and now has 64,093 members. It has paid out \$130,000 in sick, death and disability benefits.

Preliminary steps have been taken by the Amalgamated Carpenters and United Brotherhood to organize a district council, uniting all the carpenters of Detroit, Mich., and vicinity in one body.

Glasgow and South-Western Railway employes in the Glasgow, Scotland, district, met recently to form what is termed a Providence Club. The object is to assist sick and disabled workmen by an assessment of members.

NEWSY CLEANINGS.

The hospitals of New York City are overflowing with patients.

Surveys for several new railway lines in Peru are now being made.

Twenty-five thousand people have been driven out of their homes in Allegheny City, Pa., by fierce floods.

Combes, the French Premier, announced in the Chamber of Deputies that no dissensions of a serious nature existed in the Cabinet.

Emigrants leaving Europe through the ports of Hamburg and Bremen in 1903 numbered 319,880 persons, against 266,884 in 1902.

New York merchants are planning the formation of a National Merchants' Association, with an ultimate membership of 500,000.

The new Grain Exchange, at Omaha, Neb., started business with 100 brokers on the floor and every indication of good business.

Germany's shipbuilding industry in 1903 shows unsatisfactory results, and builders complain they do not get foreign orders as they should.

The Pennsylvania Railroad has discontinued 500 passes, usually issued each year to members of the families of the officers of the system.

There is much dissatisfaction among British soldiers in South Africa because they have to still live in tents, as in war time, apart from their families.

Women's Health Protective Association, of New York City, favored separate cars for women and denounced the "near side" rule and the unsanitary condition of the cars.

Four Hungarian deputies, including the present Prime Minister, Count Tisza, who had been sentenced to various short terms of imprisonment for dueling, have just been pardoned by imperial decree.